

THE STAGE

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Fencing Association

In this issue...

FIE Rules

Rene Roch Editorial

AFA History

Tournament Results

Reviews

Plus...

The 2006 AFA Award Winners!



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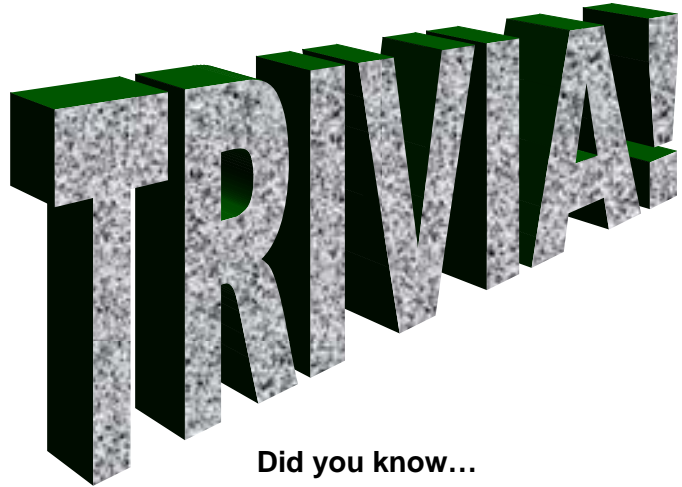
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Did you know...

Fencers wear white uniforms because before the advent of electronic scoring, touches were recorded on the white surface with a wad of ink-soaked cotton, or charcoal on the tips of the weapons

Canadian military pilots-in-training were required to participate in fencing for the development of hand-eye coordination and reflexes.

The fencing choreography in *Star Wars (IV)*, *The Princess Bride*, *Highlander*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Zorro*, *Lord of the Rings*, and *James Bond: Die Another Day*, was done by fencing master Bob Anderson, a former Technical Director of the Canadian Fencing Federation.

ERRATA

In the April 2006 issue of *The Edge*, it was mistakenly reported that Anthony Prymack made the Junior National Team. Anthony was selected to be a member of the Cadet National Team. Congratulations, Anthony!



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

AFA Award Winners 2006	4
Escrime Magazine Editorial	6
FIE Rulebook	7
Book Reviews	10
AFA History	12
Tournament Results	14
Why Go to Fencing Camp?	16

This Issue's Contributors

Vanessa Bjerreskov
Rene Roch
Don Wetterberg
Nora O'Malley
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WE NEED YOU!

Do you have ideas for upcoming Edge articles? Have you seen a fencing movie or read a fencing book that you'd like to tell the rest of the fencers in Alberta about? Maybe you'd like to share the story of how you got started in fencing. The Edge needs your contributions! Email abfence@telus.net, or call 780 427 9474 to talk about contributing to the Edge!

AFA AWARD WINNERS 2006

Every year, the Alberta Fencing Association recognizes the best in our sport in the province with the Athlete of the Year award and the Volunteer of the Year award. On some special occasions, the Association also awards Lifetime Achievement awards, which honour extensive work for fencing in the province. This year's award winners are truly deserving of their awards, which were presented at this year's Provincial Championships Banquet. Read about them below!

2006 AFA ATHLETE OF THE YEAR Darragh O'Malley

Darragh O'Malley was nominated for the AFA Athlete of the Year award due to his excellence in performance, and his dedication to his club. He is very influential in and around Epic Fencing Club, assisting with coaching, tournaments, and other volunteer duties, including serving as vice



president of the club's executive. He is a positive role model for other fencers, providing encouragement and help with footwork and bladework. He consistently brings a positive atmosphere to the club. Additionally, he is a member of the Alberta Provincial Team, and performs well on the national and international circuits. Darragh began fencing in 1991, and has shown consistent

and considerable improvement in his performance over his fencing career. He has been a force to contend with on the Alberta circuit for many years, first winning the title of Alberta Senior Men's Epee Champion in 1997. He is consistently in the top two places on the Alberta Provincial ranking, and challenges the top 10 places in Senior Men's Epee nationally.

2006 WETTERBERG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Shane Carritt

Shane Carritt was first introduced to fencing at an open house in Red Deer in 1994. Glenn Samson instructed a 5-hour class, and that was enough to hook Shane into the fencing community. Shane has

been a strong member, supporter, executive, and coach for Red Deer Fencing Club for over a decade. He has worked strictly as a volunteer all that time, even paying membership dues up until two years ago. Shane continually expands his knowledge and skills as a coach, but more that just developing athletes and good fencing skills, he has a strong emphasis on developing good people. Red Deer



Fencing Club athletes' success on the provincial circuit is a direct result of Shane's efforts at the club level.



AFA AWARD WINNERS 2006 CONTINUED...

2006 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Helmut Mach

Our sport has a long history in this province, one that many of us aren't aware of. It is our pleasure to recognize one of the founders of fencing in Alberta with the AFA's 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award. The nomination submitted by Janet Wetterberg details Helmut's contributions to the sport in Alberta:

"Helmut Mach was a member of the Alberta Fencing Association Executive for 25 years, in positions from Secretary to Vice President Technical to President. He was an active foil and sabre fencer, but the sabre became his best event, and you will see Helmut's name on many trophies throughout Western Canada.

"His love and enthusiasm for the sport helped him recognize elements that needed to be addressed to help ensure a future for fencing in the province.

"Helmut developed the first presiding program in Alberta for training officials. He was the first Alberta-developed fencer to obtain international presiding certification "B" license status in both foil and epee. He obtained this certification at the World Junior Fencing Championships in Arnhem, Netherlands, 1985.

"When the CFA (now CFF) came out with material for development of coaches, Helmut started a coaching certification program in Alberta using this material. He organized the first coaching certification course, which was thereafter held regularly.

"In his term as VP Technical, he was the junior development coordinator. He was the first to begin holding junior events at open competition to enhance junior development. During his tenure, he helped to establish the Junior Provincials, to give juniors more experience.

"Helmut was also the editor of the Alberta Fencing Magazine from 1976 to 1985. There were usually 10 issues in a year and were mailed to all

registered fencers. The magazine included club news, competition results, rule changes, upcoming events and any articles of interest to fencers and their clubs. Everyone looked forward to receiving this publication!

"Helmut also put together a standard operating manual for each registered club in Alberta. It contained information such as the AFA bylaws, fencing terminology, AFA program information (i.e. presiding & coaching), trouble shooting on the piste, organizing and running tournaments, and sample forms needed for registration and sanctioning of the tournament. Helmut kept this manual updated with the hopes it would be passed on to new club executive members.

"Helmut also organized and worked as Directoire at the Sun tournament, which was the largest tournament in Alberta for many years. It was not unusual to have 70 or more entries in men's foil, with similar type of entries in other weapons! Helmut and Gerald Samuel organized the fencing event for the Universiade 1983 in Edmonton, and the 1982 Canadian National Championships in Edmonton.

"Helmut initiated a fencing exchange under the Provincial Government Twinning Exchange Program with Hokkaido, Japan. He organized the

tour of the Hokkaido team that came to Alberta in 1980. In 1981, Helmut organized the Alberta Fencing Team's trip to travel and compete in Hokkaido as the final part of the exchange. Hokkaido presented Alberta with gifts that became trophies for a new tournament that Helmut set up for sabre and women's foil.

"Helmut received the Alberta Provincial Achievement Award in 1984 for his organization of the fencing event at Universiade 1983, as well as the Universiade 1983 Recognition Award. He also received the City of Edmonton Recreation Achievement Award in 1984 as a builder of fencing in the city."



ESCRIME MAGAZINE EDITORIAL

122

This is the number of affiliated federations and this figure will increase again in the next few months when we receive the relevant documents. The increase in the number of our federations is of utmost importance, as it is proof of the global appeal of our sport. In the last fifteen years, we have experienced a 50% growth in the number of affiliates and we can be confident that this trend will continue.

Following the decision of the International Olympic Committee to allocate 12 extra places to us for the Beijing Olympic Games, our sport can only be thankful for the decisions made at our Doha congress. The IOC has definitely been swayed by the fact that our sport takes into consideration all judicious recommendations issued and that it is capable of embracing all the changes necessary for its development.

The positive evolution of our sport has been obvious for a number of years, as we have amended our rules in an effort to modernize. It now seems we should take a break, at least until the Beijing Olympic Games. I believe we should now focus on other areas.

First of all, refereeing. It is becoming crucial that our decisions be more unbiased and, to this effect, we must use all available means. The use of video does not constitute a novelty per se: if my memory serves me correctly, this possibility was favourably voted upon twenty or so years ago, following a proposal made by yours truly, President of the Propaganda Committee of the FIE at the time. However, the software and means required for its implementation were lacking then. They are not available and we believe we will be ready for Beijing.

It is imperative that we use the Internet to broadcast our major competitions. As we unfortunately will never be as popular as ball games, television, at least for now, will only become interested in our sport if its media impact is favourable. The Internet will enable us to be our own broadcaster and, as our image is relatively

easy to capture and is favourably perceived by the public, success is guaranteed.

This is why we will be particularly attentive to which "Grand Prix" we choose to webcast. This quality requirement must be combined with the excellent organization of these competitions (electronic scoreboards compulsory, coloured pistes etc.). The style and broadcasting of our sport will make it possible to gain our place among the top Olympic sports. If we can achieve this, the possibility of obtaining two further medals for the London 2012 Games might become reality.

I am obviously keen on obtaining these two extra medals but I would like to draw your attention to the number of extra places that will be needed, as teams in each weapon category required twenty four places, thereby reducing the global potential of our sport. This is why I am delighted with the twelve places granted by the IOC for Beijing, as these extra places will give us the possibility of inviting twelve other countries to join us in the great Olympic celebration. The transparent mask and wireless device are also necessary tools (for epee and foil) in our effort to extend our appeal. We have made proposals to this effect, hoping that the idea will gain ground, as it would be a shame for our application for two extra medals be rejected again due to deep-rooted stubbornness.

As I have been saying for many years, our future is in our own hands. Let's throw caution to the wind and give our sport a 21st century style while retaining the values it has promoted for centuries: the spirit of chivalry, respect of the opponent, courtesy... in one word, education – the fencer's salvation!



Rene Roch
(from *Escrime Internationale FIE*,
04.2006, No. 55)

FIE RULEBOOK

Chapter 5: Fencing

In this first installment of a new regular feature, The Edge features the official rules of the FIE, which govern the aspects of our sport. In this issue, we reprint Chapter 5, which covers the general rules of fencing and bouting for all weapons.

1. Method of holding the weapon

t.16 With all three weapons, defence must be effected exclusively with the guard and the blade used either separately or together.

If the handle has no special device or attachment or special shape (e.g. orthopaedic), a fencer may hold it in any way he wishes and he may also alter the position of his hand on the handle during a bout. However, the weapon must not be — either permanently or temporarily, in an open or disguised manner — transformed into a throwing weapon; it must be used without the hand leaving the hilt and without the hand slipping along the hilt from front to back during an offensive action.

When the handle has a special device or attachment or has a special shape (e.g. orthopaedic) it must be held in such a way that the upper surface of the thumb is in the same plane as the groove in the blade (in foil or épée) and perpendicular to the plane of the flexibility of the blade in saber.

The weapon must be used with one hand only; a fencer may not change hands until the end of the bout, unless the Referee gives special permission in the case of injury to the hand or arm.

2. Coming on guard

t.17 The fencer whose number is called first should place himself on the right of the Referee, except in the case of a bout between a right- and a left-hander, if the left-hander is called first.

The Referee places each of the two competitors in such a way that the front foot of each is 2 meters from the centre line of the strip (that is, behind the 'on-guard' lines).

Competitors are always put on guard, whether at the beginning of the bout or subsequently, in the centre of the width of the strip. When placed on guard during the bout, the distance between the two competitors must be such that, in the position 'point in-line,' the points of the two blades cannot make contact

After the scoring of a valid touch the competitors are put on guard in the middle of the strip. If no touch is awarded they are replaced in the position that they occupied when the bout was interrupted.

At the beginning of each period (in a direct elimination

bout) and of any additional minute of fencing time, the fencers are placed on guard in the middle of the strip.

The competitors may not be replaced on guard, at their correct distance, in such a way as to place behind the rear line of the strip a fencer who was in front of that line when the bout was halted.

If he already had one foot behind the rear line, he remains in that position.

If a fencer has crossed the lateral boundaries of the strip, he may be put back on guard at the correct distance even if this places him behind the rear line and thereby causes a touch to be awarded against him.

Competitors come on guard when the Referee gives the order 'On guard', after which the Referee asks, 'Are you ready?'. On receiving an affirmative reply, or in the absence of a negative reply, he gives the command for fencing to commence with the word 'Fence'.

The fencers must come on guard correctly and remain completely still until the command 'Fence' is given by the Referee. In foil and saber fencers may not come on guard in the 'in line' position.

3. Beginning, stopping and restarting the bout

t.18 1. Beginning the bout

The start of the bout is signalled by the word 'Fence'. No movement made or initiated before the word 'Fence' is counted.

2. Stopping the bout

The bout stops on the word 'Halt', except in the case of special events occurring which modify the regular and normal conditions of the bout (cf. also t.32).

As soon as the order 'Halt' has been given, a competitor may not start a new action; only the movement which has been begun before the order was given remains valid. Everything which takes place afterwards is entirely non-valid (But cf. t.32).

If a competitor stops before the word 'Halt', and is touched, the touch is valid.

The order 'Halt' is also given if the fencing of the competitors is dangerous, confused, or contrary to the Rules, if one of the competitors is disarmed or leaves the strip, or if, while retreating, he approaches too near the spectators or the Referee (cf. t.28, t.55/6 and t.73/j).

FIE RULEBOOK CONTINUED...

3. Leaving the strip

The Referee may not allow a fencer to leave the strip, save in exceptional circumstances. If a competitor does so without permission he is liable to incur the penalties enumerated in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120).

4. Fencing at close quarters

t.19 Fencing at close quarters is allowed so long as the competitors can wield their weapons correctly and the Referee can, in foil and saber, follow the phrase.

5. Corps à corps

t.20 Corps à corps is said to exist when the two competitors are in contact; when this occurs the Referee must stop the bout (cf. t.25, t.63).

In foil and saber it is forbidden for a fencer to cause corps à corps (even without brutality or violence). Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 and any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

In all three weapons it is forbidden for a fencer to cause corps à corps intentionally to avoid being touched, or to jostle the opponent. Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 and any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

6. Displacing the target and passing the opponent

t.21 Displacing the target and ducking are allowed even if during the action the unarmed hand comes into contact with the strip.

It is forbidden to turn one's back on one's opponent during the bout.

Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 and any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

When a fencer goes past his opponent during a bout, the Referee must immediately call 'Halt' and replace the competitors in the positions which they occupied before the passing took place.

When touches are made as a fencer passes his opponent, the touch made immediately is valid; a touch made after passing his opponent by the competitor who has made the passing movement is annulled, but the touch made immediately, even when turning round, by the competitor who has been subjected to the offensive action, is valid.

If during a bout a fencer who has made a flèche attack has a touch registered against him and he continues to run beyond the extreme limit of the strip sufficiently far to cause his reel or the connecting line to his reel to be torn out, the touch which he has received will not be annulled

(cf. t.103).

7. Substitution and use of the non-sword hand and arm

t.22 The use of the non-sword hand and arm to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120). Should such an offence occur, the touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

In foil and saber, it is forbidden to protect the target area or to substitute another part of the body for the target area, either by covering or by an abnormal movement (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120); any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

During the bout, the fencer must not, under any circumstances, take hold of any part of the electrical equipment with the non-sword hand (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120); any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

t.23 If during a bout the Referee notices that one of the fencers is making use of the non-sword arm and/or hand, or is protecting or covering the valid target with a non-valid surface, the Referee can call for the help of two neutral judges who will be designated by the Bout Committee. These judges, one on each side of the strip, will watch all aspects of the bout and will indicate, by raising their hand or when asked by the Referee, if the non-sword arm or hand has been used, or if the fencer has protected or covered the valid target with a non-valid surface (cf. t.49, t.114, t.116, t.120).

The Referee may also make the fencers change places so that the fencer committing this fault does not have his back to the Referee.

8. Ground gained or lost

t.24 When the order 'Halt' is given, ground gained is held until a touch has been given. When competitors are replaced on guard, each fencer should retreat an equal distance in order to keep fencing distance (cf. t.17).

t.25 However, if the bout has been stopped on account of corps à corps, the fencers are replaced on guard in such a position that the competitor who has sustained the corps à corps is at the place which he previously occupied; this also applies if his opponent has subjected him to a flèche attack, even without corps à corps.

9. Crossing the limits of the strip

(a) Stopping the bout

(b) **t.26** When a competitor crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the strip with one or both feet, the referee must immediately call 'Halt'.

If the fencer goes off the strip with both feet, the referee must annul everything that has occurred after the boundary has been crossed, except a touch received by the competitor who has crossed the boundary even after he has crossed it, provided that this touch results from a

FIE RULEBOOK CONTINUED...

simple and immediate action. However, a touch scored by the fencer who leaves the strip with one foot only is valid provided that the action was started before the 'Halt'.

If one of the competitors leaves the strip with both feet, only a touch made by the fencer who remains on the strip with at least one foot can be counted valid, even in the case of a double touch.

(b) Rear limits

t.27 Should a competitor cross the rear limit of the strip completely — i.e. with both feet — a touch will be scored against him/her.

(c) Lateral boundaries

t.28 A competitor who crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the strip with one or both feet is penalized. When the competitors are replaced on guard, the opponent of the competitor who has crossed the lateral boundary will step forward one meter from the position he occupied when his opponent left the strip; the competitor who is penalized must retreat in order to resume the correct fencing distance.

If the exercise of this penalty places a competitor with both feet beyond the rear limit of the strip, that competitor is considered as having been touched.

A competitor who crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the strip with one or both feet – e.g. when making a fleche – to avoid being touched will be penalized as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

(d) Leaving the strip accidentally

t.29 A competitor who unintentionally crosses one of the boundaries of the strip as the result of any *accidental cause* (such as jostling) incurs no penalty whatever.

10. Duration of the bout

t.30 Duration of the bout is held to mean the *effective duration*, that is the total of the intervals of time between the orders 'Fence' and 'Halt'.

The duration of the bout is registered by the Referee or by a timekeeper. For the finals of all official competitions, as well as for all bouts for which a chronometer is visible to the spectators, the chronometer must be so placed that it is visible to the two fencers on the strip and to the Referee.

The effective duration of a bout is:

- For pools, 5 touches, maximum 3 minutes
- For direct elimination bouts, 15 touches, maximum 9 minutes divided into 3 periods of 3 minutes, with one minute's pause between any two periods.
- For team matches, 3 minutes for each *round* or bout

t.31 The fencers may ask how much time they have left to fence each time that the fencing is interrupted.

Any fencer who attempts improperly to cause or to

prolong interruptions to the bout is penalized as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

t.32 At the expiration of the regulation fencing time, if the clock is linked to the scoring apparatus (obligatory standard for finals of official FIE competitions), it must set off automatically a loud audible signal, and automatically cut off the scoring apparatus, without canceling touches registered before the disconnection. The bout stops with the audible signal.

If the clock is not linked to the scoring apparatus, the time-keeper must shout 'Halt' (or operate a sound signal) which stops the bout; in this case, even a 'coup lancé' is not valid.

Should there be a failure of the clock or an error by the time-keeper, the Referee must estimate how much fencing time is left.

11. Accidents, withdrawal of a competitor

t.33 For an accident which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the delegate of the FIE Medical Committee or by the doctor on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the bout lasting no longer than 10 minutes. This break should be timed from the point when the doctor gave his opinion and be strictly reserved for the treatment of the accident which brought it about. If the doctor considers, before or at the end of the 10-minute break, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the bout, the fencer must withdraw (individual events) and/or be replaced, if possible (team events) (cf. o.44).

During the remainder of the same day, a fencer cannot be allowed a further break unless as a result of a different injury.

Should a fencer demand a break which is deemed by the delegate of the Medical Committee or by the doctor on duty to be unjustified, the Referee will penalize that fencer as specified in Articles t.114, t.117, t.120.

In team events a fencer judged unable to continue the event by the doctor may, nevertheless, on the advice of the same doctor, fence in subsequent matches on the same day.

The Bout Committee may modify the order of bouts in a pool in order to ensure the efficient running of the competition (cf. o.16).



BOOK REVIEWS

This issue's comparative reviews come to us courtesy of Vanessa Bjerreskov, Executive Director of the AFA!



The Hardy Boys: The Clue of the Broken Blade (revised text)

by Franklin W. Dixon
ISBN 0448089211
Published 1970

I start this review with a caveat: I am not a 10 to 14 year old boy living in the 1970s.

I read this book in about an hour, and my, my, wasn't it a read. It made me laugh, at any rate, though I don't believe it was Dixon's original intention to do so. This is the first Hardy Boys novel I have ever read, but it reads so formulaic that I have no need to read any of the others.

Frank and Joe Hardy attend a fencing school along with some of their friends, and despite the fact that they are often jet setting around the U.S. solving mysteries with their father, they are both exceedingly good at fencing. In fact, so good that they double for injured fencing masters on a movie set later in the novel. They are hired by their fencing master to find the guard half of a broken blade that will prove him the heir to his grandfather's fortune. And through an incredible series of lucky breaks, they do so. I don't believe I'm spoiling the ending by telling you that they succeed.

The descriptions of fencing in this book are above average. Dixon (although Dixon as an individual does not exist) obviously spent some time researching the sport, and had a fencer look over his work before publishing. Admittedly, what with Frank and Joe's career as crime fighters, they would not have time to become as proficient with all three weapons as they are purported to be, but we leave it

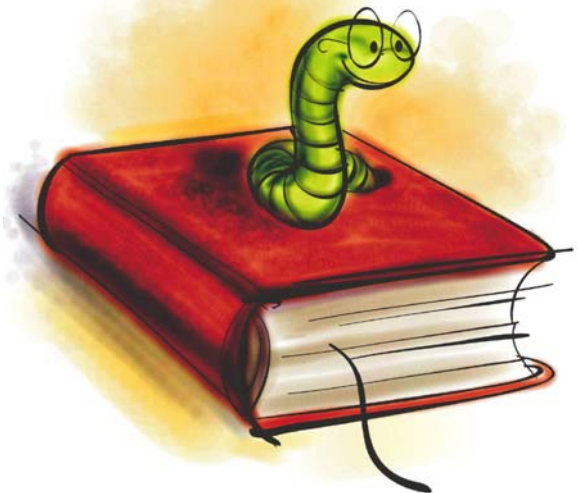
because it is part of their characters. There is a pseudo-duel that leaves something to be desired in terms of the sportsmanship of the opponent, but again, it serves to highlight the Hardys' characters.

And that is perhaps my biggest comment about the book. Frank and Joe Hardy are perfect. They have no flaws whatsoever. They are attractive, smart, decently well off financially, famous, and good at absolutely everything. All the young ladies they meet immediately fall for them, and with the exception of the villains, every man they meet treats them as good buddies. I like my characters believable, and the Hardys just aren't.

But like I said, I'm not an adolescent boy. Maybe if I was, I would want to aspire to be like Frank and Joe.

So, it wasn't a bad read, because it was funny, but I do expect a little more depth to the main characters, even in children's' books.

As far as I know, this book is only available as a used hardcover.



BOOK REVIEWS CONTINUED...



The Hardy Boys: The Clue of the Broken Blade (original text)

by Franklin W. Dixon
ISBN ?
Published 1942

I was surprised when Nathan came to me and said my review of *The Clue of the Broken Blade* didn't match up his copy of the book at all. So he lent it to me, and I knew immediately upon reading the first page that this was an entirely different story than the one I had originally read.

Not to say that it was so different from the later version. The Hardy Boys are Hardy Boys, be they written in the 1940s, 1970s, or 2000s. They are still perfect, reckless, and more lucky than anyone has any right to be.

In this version, Frank and Joe start by practicing for a charity play (put on by Chet Morton, charity unspecified) by dueling with umbrellas. They are thereafter contracted by their father to help him track down a ring of truck thieves, who load merchandise into trucks when it is delivered to port. Hijinks ensue, and they find themselves dealing with clues that come in the form of swords: one stolen, one broken and the blade stolen (hence the title). "Seemingly unrelated events" come together, including the missing amnesiac scion of a millionaire who ran off to

join the circus (oh, please!), a missing snake, a Spanish fencing master with the same name as an emigrated matador, kidnappings, bombs, fires, a ledger, and a general distrust of the deductive powers of the police force. I really don't think I'm spoiling anything; the plot is so convoluted you'd have to be the author to put all those pieces together.

This book is not so much about fencing as it is about swords. The broken blade in question is a Crusader's broadsword, with the man's name engraved upon it. Other swords make appearances, like a Spanish estoque, and two sharps that the Hardys' benefactor lends them to give their charity play an edge of realism. These sharps provide much hilarity as the Hardys chase away an intruder to their house with them, startle their aunt when they think that she's another intruder, and completely freak out their friends as they rehearse for the play. Never mind the fact that the Hardys don't know how to fence; they're invincible, don't you know? Chet Morton does go for a fencing lesson off stage (followed by a quart of ice cream and a boat ride, but he's the Hardys' geeky fat friend, isn't he?), but that is about the extent of swordplay in the book.

I suppose I sound a little cynical. Truth be told, I think this is the better of the two versions of this story. Granted, I think Frank and Joe are too good to be true, and definitely have more luck than any normal person should have, the plot is convoluted, and I have yet to figure out how a man can hold onto the hiltless blade of a broadsword and brandish it as a weapon, but at least these older Hardys don't make any pretension of their abilities (beyond an instinctive knack for sword work). In many places, they must force themselves to keep their cool, they are not always on top in a fight, and even their father makes his share of mistakes.

This book is only available as a used hardcover, published prior to 1970.



AFA HISTORY

There are always first competitions in a fencer's life. Your first provincial competition, national, and for some, international competition can be an exciting experience. In 1985, Don Wetterberg went to the Pan American Junior Fencing Championships. He wrote this report for the September Alberta Fencing Magazine.

POINT-A-PITRE, GUADELOUPE—July 24th to July 29th 1985

The site of the Pan American Junior Fencing Championships this summer was Guadeloupe, an island situated about 320 miles to the south-east of Haiti and Puerto Rico, in the Caribbean Sea. Alberta sent three fencers selected to the Canadian team to compete: Sean Blatt and Chris Dyck, sabre, and myself, epee. The balance of the members of the team were: sabre, L. Nowosielski (RA), Dan Nowosielski (RA); foil and epee, Paul Apsimon (RA), Michel Lacroix (Mou); epee, Pascale Gagnon (Estoc); Thalie Tremblay (RA), ladies foil.

Although I had never been further south than Colorado, I could envision myself on a beautiful tropic island during the last week of July. We met part of the team in Montreal on July 24th and departed for New York, where we met the Ottawa members of the team and the U.S. team, who flew with us. The first stop was the island of St. Thomas. It is so small an island that it looks like a pencil dot to the east of Puerto Rico on an enlarged map of the Caribbean. As the aircraft approached for landing, we descended to a height so close to the sea that one could have made a comfortable jump into the water. We landed finally on the edge of the runway, which starts immediately at the ocean. It is a miracle that

these pilots beat the odds of that risk so often! From St. Thomas we flew out to St. Kitts, a British colony, then on to our destination, Guadeloupe.

As we walked towards the airport from the plane, I'm sure everybody was wondering how they would get by for one week in the heat and humidity. After being bussed to our residence at the local university and settling in, we had supper and, as a team, then went for a walk. We noticed that the area we were walking in was an all black community, and perhaps we were slightly nervous because of the long stares which many people were giving us as we walked along. The houses were very small, almost box like structures made mostly of wood and corrugated tin sheets. Definitely you would never have seen a large community like this in Canada. Houses were

very crowded together, many joined in a continuous line. As we walked on, an occasional scooter, of which there were many, would steer towards us and swerve away at the last moment. Sometimes as they passed, comments were made by them in French. Although I could not understand them, I could tell that the comments were not friendly. At one point some people threw bottles at us. By the actions and events which occurred, it was not hard to figure out that there was



AFA HISTORY CONTINUED...

something bothering these people. As we headed back towards the residence, we noticed a teenaged boy running from house to house delivering pamphlets. The pamphlet explained that the people were striking and protesting for the release of a black native of Guadeloupe, being held in Paris. He had assaulted a white Parisian school teacher in Guadeloupe by cutting him with a knife. This teacher had struck a black student. However the protest was more than just for this. They were also protesting the power of the French government in Guadeloupe.

The first night was interesting as I listened to others swearing and stamping on cockroaches, and the occasional holler of a mouse sighting. In the morning we were told that the opening ceremonies were cancelled since many of the teams had not arrived. However, there would be a training session downtown at the site. Our trip downtown was unsuccessful, however, as a result of many barricades blocking traffic from entering the city. The blockades were made of everything from burning tires and cars to trees and metal scraps, and bent highway railings thrown across the roads. We could see the rioting downtown, and several riot police trucks full of men with armoured gear and a water cannon.

Epee was scheduled for the next day, but we were told it was cancelled due to more serious conditions. We were able to spend some time on a beautiful beach along a chain of hotels, about one half hour walk through a wealthy white French community. We were shortly informed that the competition was to be cancelled. Disappointed with this decision, the purpose of the trip seemed to disappear. We had two alternatives, either to sit around and think about the summer which had been committed

to training for this competition, or make use of the time left and make the best of a bad situation. Most of us chose the latter and made use of the warm salty Caribbean in front of us.

We left one day early to make sure that we could get a flight, since some airlines were considering discontinuing flights until the situation cooled off.

So far, the word is that France will be funding our way back to Guadeloupe in late October for a second try. All Alberta fencers came home the first time with no defeats. Let's hope we can do it again, only this time with a competition!

By Don Wetterberg



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Alberta circuit results are available on the AFA website at http://www.fencing.ab.ca/tournament_results.asp! You'll find below out of province results for April and May. Please remember, it's your responsibility to send your out of province results to abfence@telus.net!

Canadian National Championships 18-22 May 2006

Name	Event	Place
Catherine Dunnette	Senior Women's Epee	2
Brita Goldie	Senior Women's Epee	6
Nakisa Donnelly	Senior Women's Epee	20
Jacqueline Geller	Senior Women's Epee	38
Polina Andreychenko	Senior Women's Epee	51
Nora O'Malley	Senior Women's Foil	12
Nessa Forde	Senior Women's Foil	17
Sarah Morrison	Senior Women's Foil	18
Siobhan Kirkland	Senior Women's Foil	38
Meredith Giroux	Senior Women's Sabre	5
Elyse Richards	Senior Women's Sabre	23
Alyssa Williams	Senior Women's Sabre	28
Brita Goldie	Junior Women's Epee	1
Nakisa Donnelly	Junior Women's Epee	22
Polina Andreychenko	Junior Women's Epee	27
Jacqueline Geller	Junior Women's Epee	28
Karis Langvand	Junior Women's Epee	30
Emily Caine	Junior Women's Epee	34
Ajanta Basak	Junior Women's Epee	40
Nessa Forde	Junior Women's Foil	3
Sarah Morrison	Junior Women's Foil	15
Siobhan Kirkland	Junior Women's Foil	17
Rhiannon Kirkland	Junior Women's Foil	25
Olenka Forde	Junior Women's Foil	27
Alyssa Williams	Junior Women's Sabre	11
Nakisa Donnelly	Cadet Women's Epee	5
Jennifer Noel	Cadet Women's Epee	18
Karis Langvand	Cadet Women's Epee	24
Emily Caine	Cadet Women's Epee	39
Ajanta Basak	Cadet Women's Epee	40

Name	Event	Place
Olenka Forde	Cadet Women's Foil	14
Rhiannon Kirkland	Cadet Women's Foil	19
Elyse Richards	Cadet Women's Sabre	7
Rhiannon Kirkland	Cadet Women's Sabre	8
Karis Langvand	U15 Women's Epee	7
Emily Caine	U15 Women's Epee	18
Ajanta Basak	U15 Women's Epee	22
Olenka Forde	U15 Women's Foil	3
Elyse Richards	U15 Women's Sabre	7
Darragh O'Malley	Senior Men's Epee	18
Joshua Riker-Fox	Senior Men's Epee	37
Andrew Pickup	Senior Men's Epee	42
Kevin Rostek	Senior Men's Epee	50
Roger Hill	Senior Men's Epee	57
Calvin Pritchard	Senior Men's Epee	64
Chris Seabrook	Senior Men's Epee	65
Lucas Duguay	Senior Men's Epee	82
Rhys Dardis	Senior Men's Epee	90
Nicholas Moore	Senior Men's Epee	91
Anthony Prymack	Senior Men's Foil	13
Scott McNeil	Senior Men's Foil	15
Sinatrio Raharjo	Senior Men's Foil	22
Rory Chisholm	Senior Men's Foil	25
Zachary Redeker	Senior Men's Foil	29
Ian Selleck	Senior Men's Foil	33
Matt Bobyn	Senior Men's Foil	38
Gregory Chang	Senior Men's Foil	39
Nathan Morris	Senior Men's Foil	41
Cameron Mann	Senior Men's Foil	56
Michael Olsen	Senior Men's Foil	59
Clark Sevalrud	Senior Men's Foil	63

TOURNAMENT RESULTS CONTINUED...

Canadian National Championships 18-22 May 2006

Name	Event	Place	Name	Event	Place
Piotr Pilaszewicz	Senior Men's Sabre	15	Calvin Pritchard	Cadet Men's Epee	23
Paul Almaev	Senior Men's Sabre	27	Lucas Duguay	Cadet Men's Epee	29
Andrew Gergely	Senior Men's Sabre	33	Roger Hill	Cadet Men's Epee	35
Jean-Francois Gaboury	Senior Men's Sabre	48	Rhys Dardis	Cadet Men's Epee	42
Roger Hill	Junior Men's Epee	40	Nicholas Moore	Cadet Men's Epee	50
Rhys Dardis	Junior Men's Epee	44	Anthony Prymack	Cadet Men's Foil	2
Calvin Pritchard	Junior Men's Epee	46	Rory Chisholm	Cadet Men's Foil	3
Nicholas Moore	Junior Men's Epee	52	Nathan Morris	Cadet Men's Foil	11
Lucas Duguay	Junior Men's Epee	54	Sam Hardwicke-Brown	Cadet Men's Foil	15
Anthony Prymack	Junior Men's Foil	3	Cameron Mann	Cadet Men's Foil	20
Ian Selleck	Junior Men's Foil	6	Sinatrio Raharjo	Cadet Men's Foil	23
Rory Chisholm	Junior Men's Foil	12	Clark Sevalrud	Cadet Men's Foil	30
Sam Hardwicke-Brown	Junior Men's Foil	14	Matt Bobyn	Cadet Men's Foil	32
Zachary Redeker	Junior Men's Foil	18	Cameron Pepperdine	Cadet Men's Foil	33
Sinatrio Raharjo	Junior Men's Foil	19	Ryland Horton	Cadet Men's Foil	39
Scott McNeil	Junior Men's Foil	22	Michael Olsen	Cadet Men's Foil	42
Cameron Mann	Junior Men's Foil	25	Eric Goldie	Cadet Men's Sabre	23
Nathan Morris	Junior Men's Foil	34	Paul Almaev	Cadet Men's Sabre	24
Ryland Horton	Junior Men's Foil	39	Andrew Gergely	Cadet Men's Sabre	25
Matt Bobyn	Junior Men's Foil	40	Jean-Francois Gaboury	Cadet Men's Sabre	29
Clark Sevalrud	Junior Men's Foil	45	Ryland Horton	Cadet Men's Sabre	39
Michael Olsen	Junior Men's Foil	48	Roger Hill	U15 Men's Epee	14
Cameron Pepperdine	Junior Men's Foil	50	Nicholas Moore	U15 Men's Epee	32
Andrew Gergely	Junior Men's Sabre	18	Sam Hardwicke-Brown	U15 Men's Foil	1
Eric Goldie	Junior Men's Sabre	20	Cameron Pepperdine	U15 Men's Foil	6
Jean-Francois Gaboury	Junior Men's Sabre	35	Jean-Francois Gaboury	U15 Men's Sabre	8
Paul Almaev	Junior Men's Sabre	37			

Other Tournaments

Name	Tournament	Date	Event	Place
Meredith Giroux	Paris Grand Prix	21 April 2006	Senior Women's Sabre	32

WHY GO TO FENCING CAMP?

Registration is now open for the Alberta Fencing Association's Summer Camps! This year, the AFA is offering two camps. The first is a weekend camp for fencers ages 17 and up, and the second is a week-long camp for fencers between ages 13 and 16. Details are available on the AFA website: www.fencing.ab.ca. Space is limited, so sign up as early as possible! But maybe you're wondering, why should I go to fencing camp? Well, here are some reasons to consider...



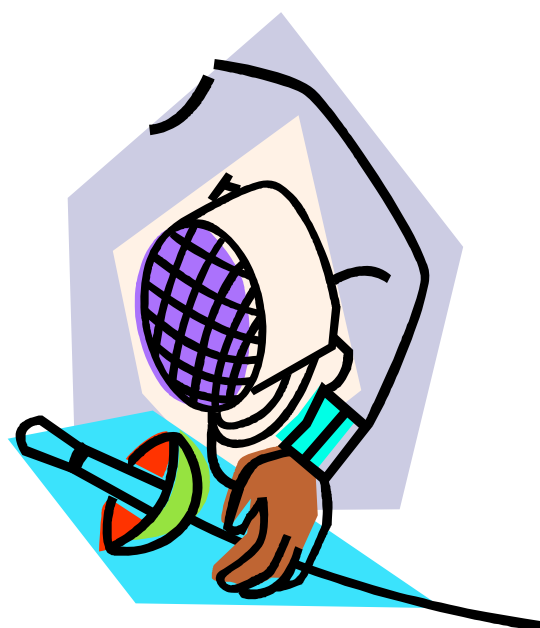
A week, or weekend, where all you have to do is think, live, eat, and breathe your favourite sport. How much fun is that?

Training with the best coaches in Alberta in your weapon.

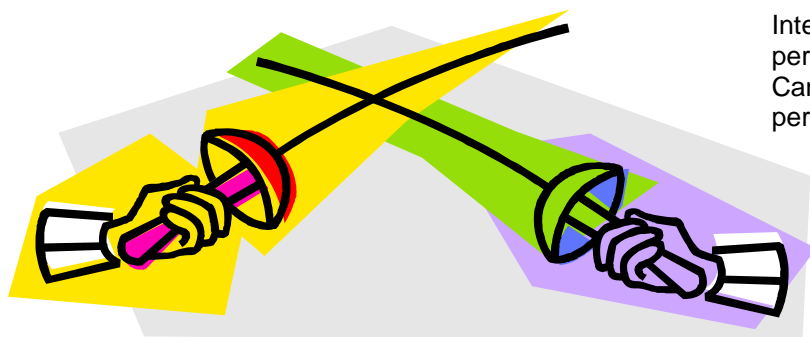
You know that person that you fence at competitions that always beats you? The one you'd love to fence more, because you could learn so much just by bouting? They're probably going to be at camp.

Hanging out with all your fencing friends from around the province, and making new fencing friends at the same time.

For people 17 and over, it's a mini-break, a holiday from school and work.



Intensive training with a focus on improving your performance at competitions. For fencers eligible for Canada Winter Games next year, competition performance will be how you make the team.



A chance to learn more about different aspects of fencing, like coaching, officiating, and equipment repair, and other related issues like drug testing.